



COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

#4A/4-290
2100
0360
0410

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James Andrew Davis et al.

Patent Application No.: 09/915,179

Filed: July 25, 2001

For: "FAULT TOLERANT
MAGNETORESISTIVE SOLID-STATE
STORAGE DEVICE"

) Art Unit: Examiner not yet assigned

) Our Ref: B-4285 618972-1/RPB

) Date: December 18, 2001

) Re: Preliminary Amendment

2133

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAR 1 1 2002

Technology Center 2100

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7-10, 13-20, and 27-31 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 6 to read as follows:

a1 6. The method of claim 2, comprising determining, from attempting to perform ECC decoding, failed symbols in the block of ECC encoded data that have been affected by a physical failure.

Please amend claim 11 to read as follows:

a2 11. The method of claim 6, comprising determining that there are more failed symbols in the block of ECC encoded data than can be reliably corrected by error correction decoding the block of ECC encoded data.